



ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 22, 1983 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 17 totaled an estimated 17.0 billion ton-miles, 11.4 percent above the corresponding period a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 50 weeks of 1983 was an estimated 800.8 billion ton-miles, 3.5 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended December 17 totaled 383,108 cars, 14.2 percent over 1982, but 2.2 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 25.4 percent in the East, 12.1 percent in the South and 8.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1982, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were up. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment totaled 21,575 cars, highest since the 49th week of 1979. Last week's loadings were up 8,240 cars -- or 61.8 percent -- above last year. Other commodities showing sharp increases were: grain, up 6,137 cars or 26.2 percent; coal, up 5,982 cars, or 5.8 percent; and chemicals and allied products, up 4,531 cars, or 23.9 percent. Sixteen of the 21 groups declined from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended December 10 totaled 48,965 cars, up 20.1 percent from the corresponding week of 1982, and 89,620 trailers and/or containers, 24.7 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 49 weeks of the year was 2,213,777 cars, 21.7 percent higher than last year, and 3,848,787 trailers and/or containers, up 19.6 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/17/83:

	<u>Loadings in</u> <u>Week ended</u> <u>December 17, 1983</u>		<u>Change from</u> <u>Corresponding</u> <u>Week 1982</u>			<u>Change from</u> <u>Preceding</u> <u>Week</u>	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,571	I	6,137	26.2	D	1,704	5.4
Other farm products	3,801	D	1,308	25.6	D	305	7.4
Metallic ores	13,857	I	2,034	17.2	D	429	3.0
Coal	108,913	I	5,982	5.8	D	2,427	2.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	9,126	I	1,780	24.2	D	1,066	10.5
Nonmetallic minerals	11,118	I	1,114	11.1	D	502	4.3
Grain mill products	10,862	D	1,295	10.7	D	658	5.7
Food and kindred products	11,319	D	540	4.6	D	347	3.0
Primary forest products	14,514	I	2,646	22.3	D	81	0.6
Lumber and wood products							
except furniture	6,988	I	755	12.1	I	25	0.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	15,141	I	208	1.4	D	172	1.1
Chemicals and allied products	23,468	I	4,531	23.9	I	56	0.2
Petroleum products	4,788	I	69	1.5	D	103	2.1
Stone, clay and glass products	9,820	I	1,969	25.1	D	586	5.6
Coke	5,268	I	1,612	44.1	D	371	6.6
Metals and products	8,553	I	1,977	30.1	D	415	4.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,575	I	8,240	61.8	I	781	3.8
Waste and scrap materials	9,195	I	2,706	41.7	D	298	3.1
Forwarder and shipper							
association traffic	10,015	I	2,551	34.2	I	87	0.9
All other carloads	54,985	I	7,179	15.0	I	29	0.1
LCL traffic	231	D	766	76.8	D	13	5.3
Total Cars Loaded	383,108	I	47,581	14.2	D	8,499	2.2

Corresponding week of 1982

335,527

	<u>1983</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Total Cars Loaded (50 weeks)	18,247,604	18,000,748	I 1.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
49 weeks ended December 10	783.8	758.8	I 3.3
Week ended December 17	17.0	15.3	I 11.4
50 weeks cumulative	800.8	774.0	I 3.5